

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14[[1]], wherein the backrest is locked in ~~its relevant~~ an inclined position in [[the]]a locked state of the locking device.
3. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14[[1]] wherein the ~~incline~~ inclination of the backrest is adjustable in [[the]]an unlocked state of the locking device.
4. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 3, wherein the backrest ~~can be pivoted~~ is pivotable forwards under ~~the action~~ a force of the spring assembly on the gear element.
5. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 3 wherein the backrest ~~can be pivoted~~ is pivotable backwards ~~under the action of~~ by a compression force on the front face against ~~the action~~ a force of the spring assembly.
6. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14[[1]], wherein the gear element is a constituent part of a gear assembly, ~~more particularly a lever assembly~~ through which the spring assembly is coupled to the backrest.
7. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 6, wherein the gear assembly ~~serves~~ is configured to translate a torque exerted by the spring assembly on the gear element.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14[[8]], wherein ~~the backrest~~ during uncoupling from the gear element, the backrest is uncoupled from the spring assembly ~~so that this does not act to prevent the spring assembly from exerting a force on the~~ backrest.

10. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14[[1]], wherein ~~the gear element is assigned a clutch by which the~~ backrest can be uncoupled from the gear element by the clutch so that the backrest can be folded forwards towards the seat surface when the gear element is locked by [[a]]the locking device.

11. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14[[1]], wherein ~~the pivotal axis of the backrest in order~~ to uncouple the backrest from the gear element as the backrest is folded forwards, a pivotal axis of the backrest is moved along a predetermined path ~~which is preferably designed~~ so that a reaction of the pivotal movement of the backrest on the gear element is prevented.

12. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 11, wherein the path is formed by a guide device in which the pivotal axis is guided to move left.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]A motor vehicle seat according to claim 13,~~comprising:

a pivotally mounted backrest which can be adjusted in its inclination and which has a front face serving to support a back of a user of the seat, and

a spring assembly with at least one elastic element with which the backrest is elastically pretensioned to bias the backrest forwards such that the backrest bears with its front face against the back of a user of the seat;

whereby the inclination of the backrest can be adjusted by exerting a force on the front face of the backrest against a force of the spring assembly;

wherein the spring assembly engages on a gear element which is coupled to the backrest and which is associated with a locking device with which the gear element can be locked in different positions;

wherein the gear element is assigned a clutch by which the backrest can be uncoupled from the gear element so that the backrest can be folded forwards towards the seat surface of the motor vehicle seat without the gear element being moved;

wherein the gear element can be brought out of engagement with the backrest so that the gear element is not in connection with the backrest; and

wherein the gear element is mounted on a base plate which is movable, ~~more particularly pivotally~~, so that the gear element moves out of engagement with the backrest.

15. (Previously presented) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14, wherein the base plate is pretensioned by a spring element into one position.

16. (Previously presented) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14, wherein the base plate is assigned a locking lever by which the base plate can be locked in a position in which the gear element engages with the backrest .

17. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 16[[14]], wherein the base plate can be brought by actuation of the locking lever into a position in which the gear element is out of engagement with the backrest.

18. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14[[8]], wherein locking means are provided by which the clutch can be locked in a state in which the gear element is coupled to the backrest.

19. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14[[8]], wherein locking means are provided by which the clutch can be locked in a state in which the gear element is uncoupled from the backrest.

20. (Currently amended) [[The]]A motor vehicle seat ~~according to claim 14~~comprising:

a pivotally mounted backrest which can be adjusted in its inclination and which has a front face serving to support a back of a user of the seat, and

a spring assembly with at least one elastic element with which the backrest is elastically pretensioned to bias the backrest forwards such that the backrest bears with its front face against the back of a user of the seat;

whereby the inclination of the backrest can be adjusted by exerting a force on the front face of the backrest against a force of the spring assembly;

wherein the spring assembly engages on a gear element which is coupled to the backrest and which is associated with a locking device with which the gear element can be locked in different positions;

wherein to uncouple the backrest from the gear element as the backrest is folded forwards, a pivotal axis of the backrest is moved along a predetermined path so that a reaction of the pivotal movement of the backrest on the gear element is prevented; and

wherein locking means are provided by which a[[the]] clutch can be locked in a state in which the gear element is coupled to the backrest, and wherein the locking means engage on the pivotal axis of the backrest and prevent its movement along the path.

21. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 20, wherein the locking means ~~are formed by~~ comprises a lever.

22. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14[[13]] wherein locking means are provided by which the clutch can be locked in a state in which the gear element is coupled to the backrest, and wherein the locking means engage on the base plate in order to prevent the movement thereof.

23. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 22, wherein the locking means ~~are formed by~~ comprises a lever guided in an oblong hole of the base plate and pretensioned elastically towards the locked state.

24. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14[[1]], wherein the locking device of the gear element has a primary locking element and a secondary locking

element whereby the primary locking element in a ~~the~~ locked state engages ~~on~~ the gear element and the secondary locking element blocks the primary locking element in the locked state.

25. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14~~[[1]]~~, wherein the gear element ~~is formed by~~ comprises a toothed segment lever.

26. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14~~[[1]]~~, wherein the spring assembly has a spring element which engages ~~on~~ the gear element.

27. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14~~[[1]]~~, wherein the gear element can be brought into engagement with the locking device through toothed gearing.

28. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 2, wherein the ~~incline~~ inclination of the backrest is adjustable in ~~an~~ the unlocked state of the locking device.

29. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 4, wherein the backrest ~~can be pivoted~~ is pivotable backwards ~~under the action of~~ by a compression force on the front face against ~~the action~~ a force of the spring assembly.

30. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 15, wherein the base plate ~~is assigned~~ includes a locking lever by which the base plate ~~can be locked~~ is lockable in a position in which the gear element engages with the backrest.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A motor vehicle seat ~~according to claim 11,~~ comprising:

a pivotally mounted backrest which can be adjusted in its inclination and which has a front face serving to support a back of a user of the seat, and

a spring assembly with at least one elastic element with which the backrest is elastically pretensioned to bias the backrest forwards such that the backrest bears with its front face against the back of a user of the seat;

whereby the inclination of the backrest can be adjusted by exerting a force on the front face of the backrest against a force of the spring assembly;

wherein the spring assembly engages on a gear element which is coupled to the backrest and which is associated with a locking device with which the gear element can be locked in different positions;

wherein to uncouple the backrest from the gear element as the backrest is folded forwards a pivotal axis of the backrest is moved along a predetermined path so that a reaction of the pivotal movement of the backrest on the gear element is prevented; and

wherein locking means are provided by which a ~~the~~ clutch can be locked in a state in which the gear element is uncoupled from the backrest, and wherein the locking means engage on the pivotal axis of the backrest and prevent its movement along the path.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~A motor vehicle seat ~~according to claim 12, comprising:~~

a pivotally mounted backrest which can be adjusted in its inclination and which has a front face serving to support a back of a user of the seat, and

a spring assembly with at least one elastic element with which the backrest is elastically pretensioned to bias the backrest forwards such that the backrest bears with its front face against the back of a user of the seat;

whereby the inclination of the backrest can be adjusted by exerting a force on the front face of the backrest against a force of the spring assembly;

wherein the spring assembly engages on a gear element which is coupled to the backrest and which is associated with a locking device with which the gear element can be locked in different positions;

wherein to uncouple the backrest from the gear element as the backrest is folded forwards a pivotal axis of the backrest is moved along a predetermined path so that a reaction of the pivotal movement of the backrest on the gear element is prevented;

wherein the path is formed by a guide device in which the pivotal axis is guided to move left; and

wherein locking means are provided by which a[[the]] clutch can be locked in a state in which the gear element is coupled to the backrest, and wherein the locking means engage on the pivotal axis of the backrest and prevent its movement along the path.

33. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 32[[12]], wherein ~~locking means are provided by which~~ the clutch can be locked in a state in which the gear element is uncoupled from the backrest, and wherein the locking means engage on the pivotal axis of the backrest and prevent its movement along the path.

34. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14[[13]], wherein locking means are provided by which the clutch can be locked in a state in which the gear element is uncoupled from the backrest, and wherein the locking means engage on the base plate in order to prevent the movement thereof.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (New) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 31, wherein the path is formed by a guide device in which the pivotal axis is guided to move left.

38. (New) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 6, wherein the gear element is a constituent part of a lever assembly through which the spring assembly is coupled to the backrest.

39. (New) The motor vehicle seat according to claim 14, wherein the gear element is pivotally mounted on the base plate.